REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2004.

Currently, claims 93-123 are pending. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-92 and added new claims 93-123.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the originally filed claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Linnett et al., U.S. Patent 5,682,469. Because Linnett et al. does not disclose all of the limitations of Applicants new claims 93-123, Applicants assert that the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art and are in condition for allowance.

The Background of the Invention of the present application makes reference to limitations of Internet sites to deliver "display updates in a continuous fashion." [Specification, p.2]. Applicants overcomes this limitation by using an interface engine to provide a continuous user interface within the Internet environment. For example:

> Presentation server 354 generates and delivers an interface engine in accordance with the present invention in response to a request from HTTP client 362. In one embodiment, HTTP client 362 and application server 351 communicate over network 360 through web server 358. Once the interface engine reaches HTTP client 362 it operates within plug-in 364. In one implementation, plug-in 354 provides a rendering environment, such as a Macromedia Flash Player environment. [Specification, p. 19].

The interface engine "is constructed from a framework of modular control elements" that includes "views and attribute modifiers." [Specification, p.3]

> Views are responsible for displaying visual interface graphics. Each view is capable of supporting child views and resources, such as graphical window displays and media content and more basic components such as buttons and graphical objects. In response to system events, such as user inputs, a view modifies itself using a set of attribute modifiers that are available to all of the views.

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One set of attribute modifiers includes layouts, animators, and constraints. A layout manages the attributes of a view's child views, including child view position and size. An animator modifies a view's appearance over a specified period of time. A constraint imposes limits on a view attribute in response to a detected event, such as the modification of another view attribute. For example, one view may constrain itself to being centered within another view — making the display transitions of the views interrelated. [Specification at pp. 3-4].

Figures 6A-6C show an example of how a view may change in Applicants' user interface such that the change includes fluid transitions provided by interface engine 16. For example,

Figure 6A shows view 230 with child views 232, 234, 236, and 238. An event calls for view 230 to be constricted with a horizontal child view arrangement, as shown in Figure 6C. View 230 calls an animator to adjust its height and a layout to change the arrangement of child views 232, 234, 236, and 238. Interface engine 16 is able to continuously enhance view 230 by displaying many intermediate versions of view 230, such as the intermediate version shown in Figure 6B. This enables interface engine 16 to make smooth transitions between view states. [Specification, pp. 14-15].

New claim 93 pertains to a method that makes use of the above-described features. Specifically, new claim 93 recites:

93.   (new) A method for providing a user interface, comprising:
sending a request for content from an Internet browser to a server;
receiving an interface engine in response to said request, said interface engine includes a set of views, layouts, constraints and animators;
receiving requests to change appearances of items displayed in said browser that are represented by said views; and
changing said appearances of said items in said browser by providing continuous fluid transitions of appearances of said items using said layouts, constraints and animators.

The features of claim 93 are not found in Linnett et al. Rather, Linnett et al. discloses a user interface that:

> adopts a real world metaphor so that it is readily recognizable to users and not intimidating to novice users. The user interface helps to minimize the time required to learn to use the computer and also helps to demystify the computer to novice users. The user interface presents the user with an environment that resembles rooms of a house and provides each user with a personal character that serves as a guide and assistant. [Linnett et al., col. 3, lines 13-20]

Linnett et al. does not disclose a user interface that provides "continuous fluid transitions of appearances" of items in an Internet browser, as recited in claim 93. Additionally, Linnett et al. does not disclose "receiving an interface engine in response to said request, said interface engine includes a set of views, layouts, constraints and animators" where the continuous fluid transitions of appearances are performed "using said layouts, constraints and animators," as recited in claim 93. Because Linnett et al. does not disclose all of the limitations of new claim 93, Applicants assert that claim 93 is patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance.

Similarly, Linnett et al. does not disclose a user interface that implements a "requested change by providing continuous fluid transitions for said item from said first visual state to said second unplanned visual state,"[1] where the item is in a network browser, as recited in claim 100. Therefore, Applicants assert that the claim 100 is patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance.

Claims 94-99 and 101-123 are patentable over the cited prior art for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 93 and 100.

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1.   By "unplanned visual state" it is meant that the target state for the change is not known in advance of the request to make the change. For example, consider slider 42 of Figs. 2A and 2B. When a user moves the slider (e.g., from the visual state in Fig. 2A to the visual state in Fig 2B), it is not known in advance of the move where the user will move the slider to.

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, consideration of claims 93-123 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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